

What's New in the City

City of Natchitoches

Mardi Gras Parades Roll February 6



Laissez les bon temps rouler! Let the good times roll! Both the Krewe of Wag'uns Children and Pet Parade and the Krewe of Dionysos Parade are scheduled to roll on Saturday, February 6, 2016.

Grab the kids and your

Wag-uns Children & Pet Parade. The parade will begin at 4:00 p.m. at the Bank of Montgomery located at 814 Washington Street. There is a \$5 entry fee for all pet owners. Pet owners can register their pets to be eligible for Celebrity Status, King Rex Rufus and Queen Mutt A Gras. Children may ride scooters, bicycles or wagons in the parade and must be accompanied by an adult. The parade will travel south from Bank of Montgomery on Front Street to Rue Touline and turn left onto Rue Beauport ending on the downtown riverbank. The Krewe of Wag-uns Children & Pet Parade is sponsored by the Natchitoches Humane Society. All funds raised will benefit animal spay and neuter Street.

favorite pet for the Krewe of programs in Natchitoches Parish.

> The Krewe of Dionysos Mardi Gras Parade will roll at 6:00 p.m. on Saturday, February 6th. The evening parade will feature several "super floats" and plenty of throws for everyone. The parade will begin at the River South Common parking lot in East Natchitoches traveling down South Drive to Keyser Avenue. The parade will continue west along Keyser Avenue crossing into the Natchitoches Historic Landmark District turning right onto Jefferson Street continuing north along Front and Washington Streets and turning left onto Texas Street. The parade will left turn again at Second Street and end at the intersection of Church Street and Second

February 1, 2016

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Did you know?

Feb. 17

- · Bloomin' on the Bricks, Natchitoches' spring garden festival, will be held Saturday, March 19. Vendor applications are still being accepted. Please contact the Natchitoches Main Street Office at 318-352-2746 for more information.
- The Natchitoches Parish Library will be offering fitness classes for patrons age 18 and older. February classes will focus on Zumba and will be held each Wednesday from 6 - 7 p.m. Call (318) 357-3280 for more informa-
- The northbound lane of Williams Avenue from St. Clair to Keyser will be closed to traffic on Tuesday, Feb. 2 from 8 a.m. - 3 p.m. The public is advised to use alternate routes where available.
- The Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra will perform Thursday, Feb. 4 at 7:30 p.m. at Magale Recital Hall. Tickets are \$10.
- Celebrate the life and times of Marie Therese Coincoin Saturday, Feb. 6 from noon until 2:00 p.m. at the Lemee House. Event will feature live performances, refreshments and walking tours.

Mardi Gras Bead Recycling Drive February 9

rolls around and millions of beads are thrown As an incentive for residents to donate their at parades across the state, Keep Natchitoches beads, each person that donates beads on Beautiful is getting into the spirit and asking Tuesday, February 9th will receive a slice of residents to "Throw us something mister!" On King Cake in honor of Fat Tuesday. Tuesday, February 9, Keep Natchitoches Beautiful will hold a Mardi Gras Bead Recycling Drive from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Main Street Office located at 781 Front Street.

Each year millions of beads are thrown in parades. However, after the festivities are over, the beads quickly lose their appeal and often times end up in the trash and landfills. Keep Natchitoches Beautiful is encouraging residents to donate unused and unwanted Mardi Gras Beads to be recycled. Collected beads will be recycled and reused for future

As all of the excitement of Mardi Gras parades, art projects and children's activities.



African American History Month Programs

In honor of African American History Month, Cane River Creole National Historical Park will be partnering with Asbury United Methodist Church and Cane River National Heritage Area to present a FREE

concert on Friday, February 19th at 7:00 p.m. The concert will feature musicians from New Orleans Jazz National Historical Park. This marks the third consecutive year that this concert will be held. The National Park Service will be selling CDs and related items after the performance. Asbury United Methodist Church is located at 704 5th Street.

The concert will take place in conjunction with a FREE two day symposium sponsored by the Cane River National Heritage Area at the Natchitoches Events Center, located at 750 2nd Street, on February 19 & 20. "Resistance, Escape, Community: Opposition to enslavement in North Louisiana" explores the history of organized community resistance to enslavement in 19th century North Louisiana and the Deep South. The keynote address will be given by Sylviane A. Diouf, historian and author of *Slavery's Exiles: The Story of the American Maroons*. For more information please visit www.canerivernha.org or call (318) 356-5555. Deadline to register is February 5, 2016.

Both of these events are part of the National Park Service Centennial which is being celebrated nationwide through 2016. For more information visit www.nps.gov.



An Evening of Art at LASHOF & NWLA Museum February 16

Join FLASH and the Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum for an evening of painting, fun and wine February 16, 2016 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. Artist Lucretia Glorioso will guide participants through the process of painting their very own works of art to take home. All supplies are included. Sponsored by FLASH.

Wine and light refreshments are included with the program. Reservations are required and space is limited. \$45 registration fee, \$40 for FLASH members with valid ID card.

For more information and to register for the event, please contact Lucretia Glorioso at 318-481-5070.



City League Basketball Begins February 6

The Natchitoches Recreation and Parks Department's City League Basketball season will begin on Saturday, February 6, 2016 and run through the end of March. City League Basketball is open to youth ages 5 to 14 years of age.

Games will be played on Saturdays from 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the following locations:

- MLK Recreation Center (5 8 year olds)
- Natchitoches Central High School (9/10 and 13/14 year olds)
- Natchitoches Junior High (11/12 boys and 9-12 girls)

For more information on basketball or other Recreation and Parks Department programs, please call (318) 357-3891.

All City of Natchitoches Offices will be closed Monday, Feb. 15th for President's Day

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LA Film Prize Expands to Natchitoches

Northwestern State University is joining the City of Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Convention and Visitors Bureau in sponsoring the Louisiana Film Prize, a contest that requires filmmakers to shoot a short narrative film in northwest Louisiana to win a prize of \$50,000. The LA Film Prize was established five years ago to draw filmmakers to Shreveport-Bossier, foster the creative vibe in the region, showcase the beauty and resources of northwest Louisiana and spur economic development through the film industry. This year, filming boundaries have been extended to include Natchitoches Parish.

"I believe our Parish will be greatly impacted by now being included in the approved film zones," said Madeline DeBlieux, marketing and public relations manager at the Natchitoches CVB. "Knowing the impact it has brought to the Shreveport area and northwest Louisiana, I can only imagine what it can do for Natchitoches and the parish. This will bring endless opportunities for Natchitoches and I can't wait to see filmmakers and their crews here in Natchitoches Parish."

Twenty finalists will be selected, who will receive \$500 and an invitation to the LA Film Prize Weekend Sept. 30 - Oct. 2 where the winner will be determined. Half of the selection will be through a panel of celebrities and film experts and half by audience vote. Last year, 86 teams participated.



The 2016 contest began with a kick-off party at ArtSpace in Shreveport Jan. 12 that celebrated the contest's fifth birth-day. Rough cuts of films are due by July 12 and announcement of the 20 finalists will be Aug. 16.

"We hope that as the LA Film Festival grows, Northwestern State will be a resource to filmmakers shooting in our parish," said Cole Gentry, NSU's director of Marketing and Branding.

For more information on the LA Film Prize, visit www.lafilmprize.com.

NYP Wine & Dine February 20

The Natchitoches Young Professionals will host the first annual NYP Wine & Dine event on Saturday, February 20, 2016 on the downtown riverbank in Natchitoches. The event, taking place from 2:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m., will feature wine tasting, food sampling and live music.

The NYP Wine & Dine combines elements of wine and taste festivals to bring to Natchitoches a unique culinary experience like no other - a Taste of Natchitoches perfectly paired with a dazzling array of fine wines! Participants will be able to sample a wide assortment of wines coupled with pair-



ing suggestions provided by local restaurants including The Landing Restaurant & Bar, Lasyone's, Mama's Oyster House, Maison Louisiane Catering, and The Mariners.

The event is open to persons age 21 and older. Proper ID will be required upon entry. Tickets are \$50 per person. Ticket cost includes access to the event, wine tasting and food sampling, and a commemorative gift. Tickets are limited and must be purchased in advance. Tickets are available online by visiting www.natchitocheschamber.com/events/details/wine-dinetaste-of-natchitoches-56154. Proceeds from the event will be used to further the mission of the Natchitoches Young Professionals.

The Natchitoches Young Professionals is an initiative of the Natchitoches Area Chamber of Commerce, dedicated to developing our community's current and future business leaders. Membership is available to anyone between the ages of 21 and 40 who lives, works, learns or plays in the greater Natchitoches area. Natchitoches Young Professionals is the place for young professionals to get involved, network with peers, and impact the community they call home. For more information, visit www.chambernyp.com, like us on Facebook, and follow on Twitter and Instagram (@ChamberNYP).

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City of Natchitoches

Oldest Permanent Settlement in the Louisiana Purchase

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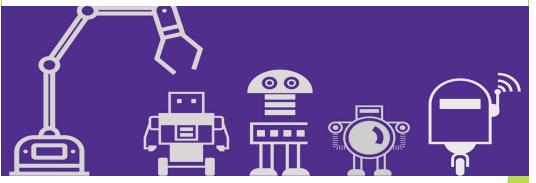
Middle School Robotics Competition February 17

Northwestern State University's Department of Engineering Technology will host their first Robotics Competition (NSU-RC1) on February 17 from 8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in the NSU Student Union Ballroom. All middle schools within a 100-mile radius of Natchitoches are invited to participate. There is no registration fee for the competition, but participants must register by Monday, February 8 by submitting a letter of intent.

Participants will be able to test their computer programming skills and compete with

other Louisiana students for prizes during a fun environment with educational experiences, food and social activities. The top three teams will receive cash prizes to be used to purchase technology for the classroom.

For a complete list of rules and regulations, contact Dr. Jafar F. Al Sharab at jafar@nsula.edu or call (318) 357-4359. Documents can also be viewed and downloaded at http://engrtech.nsula.edu/industry-andcommunity-relations/.



Upcoming Holidays & Important Dates

Feb. 1 — Natchitoches Historic District Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 2—Groundhog Day Feb. 2— Planning & Zon-

ing Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 4 — "Music of Courage" Natchitoches-Northwestern Symphony Orchestra Concert, 7:30 p.m. at Magale Recital Hall on NSU Campus

Feb. 6 - 3rd Annual Life and Times of Marie Therese "CoinCoin" Day, 12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m. at the Lemee House

Feb. 6 - Krewe of Wag'uns Children & Pet Parade, 4:00 p.m. Parade rolls down Front Street and the downtown riverbank

Feb. 6 - Krewe of Dionysos Mardi Gras

Parade, 6:00 p.m. Parade rolls through East Natchitoches and the Natchitoches Historic District

Feb. 8 - City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 9 - Mardi Gras Bead Recycling Drive, 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at the Natchitoches Main Street Office

Feb. 9 - Mardi Gras Day

Feb. 14 - Valentine's Day

Feb. 15 - President's Day (City Offices Closed)

Feb. 16 - Airport Commission Meeting, 5:00 p.m. at Natchitoches Regional Airport

Feb. 16 - An Evening of Art, 6:00 p.m. at Louisiana Sports Hall of Fame and Northwest Louisiana History Museum

Feb. 17 - NSU Robotics Competition, 8:00 a.m. -1:00 p.m. at Student Union Ballroom on NSU Campus



Feb. 19 & 20: Resistance, Escape, Community Symposium at the Natchitoches **Events Center**

a.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center

Feb. 19 - African American History Month Concert, 7:00 p.m. at Asbury United Methodist Church

Feb. 20 - NYP Wine & Dine, 2:00 p.m. -5:00 p.m. on the Downtown Riverbank. Tickets \$50

Feb. 22 - City Council Meeting, 5:30 p.m. at the Natchitoches Arts Center





